

Regional Education Concerns as Rents Increase

In November 2015, Treasury amended the Tenant Rent Setting Framework Policy, with changes taking effect on 1 July 2016. Following the Government Regional Officers' Housing (GROH) rent review, the 20% discount to Perth median rent was removed, at the same time the capped annual increase to the weekly rental rate was tripled from \$10 per week to \$30 per week.

School leaders and teachers were not advised when this change was legislated. The first communication was received last week, giving only 30 days notice of a rental increase, some as high as \$60 per fortnight.

WAPPA President, Stephen Breen said "WAPPA members are disappointed with the lack of consultation that surrounds these changes. We are perplexed at how the resulting increase of up to 15% can be justified when the Perth rental market has decreased by 8.1% over the last 12 months (REIWA)."

"I find the rent increase concerning and I fear it further exacerbates the barriers the Department of Education faces in attracting school leaders and teachers to regional communities, in order to provide high quality education to Western Australian students who reside outside the metropolitan area. Many school leaders and teachers will be reassessing the viability of their current employment and housing," said Mr Breen.

WAPPA has written to the Minister for Housing, Department of Housing and the Department of Education regarding the increases to regional housing.

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Fact File

The Western Australian Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA) is a member based, not-for-profit Incorporated Association.

WAPPA has a membership of over 1,100 comprised of primary school principals, deputy principals and aspirant leaders from across Western Australia.

WAPPA's vision is for the *sustainable enhancement of the profession of primary education in WA through member support, leadership development, and advocacy to influence educational outcomes.*

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